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Applicant: Stuart Speakman, Eric Bresler, Ian Andrew Gardner  
Serial No: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: Herewith  
For: METHOD OF FORMING A MASKING PATTERN ON A SURFACE

Box Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-76 (from the PCT Article 19 amendment) without prejudice, and substitute therefor the following new claims 77-147.

- 506B<sub>1</sub> ✓
77. A method of forming a masking pattern on a surface, said method comprising the steps of:
- using the technique of drop-on-demand printing to deposit from droplet deposition apparatus a plurality of droplets on to a surface to form a masking pattern, said droplets passing through an operating zone located between the deposition apparatus and the surface; and
  - locally exposing the operating zone to electromagnetic radiation so as to control coalescence of droplets on the surface, thereby controlling the solidity of the masking pattern.
78. A method according to Claim 77, wherein the formation of the masking pattern is controlled so that the masking pattern has predetermined structural properties.
79. A method according to Claim 77, wherein the operating zone extends from the deposition apparatus to the surface.

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